

503.30414C14 10 3-6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/461,432

Filed: December 16, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING

METHOD THEREFOR

Group:

Examiner:

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW PRIOR TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

February 10, 2000

sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims presently in the application as follows:

(Amended) A method of transferring cassettes in operating a vacuum processing apparatus <a href="https://www.natuum.natuu

an atmospheric loader, exposed to the air;

a vacuum loader; /and

a lock chamber for connecting said atmospheric

loader and said vacuum /loader, wherein

said atmospheric loader includes a cassette mount

28

1